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ABSTRACT

Presented as part of a 4-volume comprehensive report of a Florida project designed to understand rural poor and their information-seeking and information-utilization behavior patterns, Volume III reported data collected in a pre-test, used to determine the awareness and utilization of seven anti-poverty programs. Low income rural residents (N=840) responded to questions about the following state and federal programs: (1) food stamps; (2) aid to the blind; (3) aid to the totally and permanently disabled; (4) aid to families with dependent children; (5) division of family services; (6) child nutrition; and (7) old age assistance. Eight questions were used to determine the knowledge about, need for, use of, and potential use of the programs. Data showed that information about these programs was reaching many of the low income people but revealed gaps between stated needs and receipt of assistance. In addition, the school was seen as the predominate and quite effective source of information about child nutrition programs. Nonrecipients were generally uninformed about locating information on available programs and eligibility requirements. (JD)

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INFORMATION CONSUMPTION BY LOW INCOME FAMILIES TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF RURAL POVERTY

Volume III

KNOWLEDGE LEVEL, NEED, AND USE OF SELECTED ANTI POVERTY PROGRAMS BY THE RURAL POOR

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November 1978

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Jogindar S. Dhillon, Ph.D.
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This introductory chapter includes information which will orient the reader to this report, the third volume of a four-volume report on "Information Consumption by Low Income Families to Reduce Rural Poverty in Florida." This chapter includes an overview of the project, its methodology, and a brief explanatory statement regarding the organization of this report.

Project Background

An individual's operant behavior is strongly influenced by information received in the past, as well as in the present, from the immediate environment. The informational sufficiency or deficiency of that environment significantly affects each individual's knowledge, attitudes, and skills--the three basic ingredients of human behavior. These ingredients can be improved by increasing the informational content of the environment and by making it available to the individual in a comprehensive and relevant form. This, in turn, would produce changes

in the individual's information-seeking and information-consuming behavioral patterns.

Deficiency of functional information in the environment of the rural poor in the U.S. does not require any documentation. Relative isolation--geographical, social, and political--has led to this information deficiency. As in a vicious circle, this deficiency has negatively affected the information-seeking behavior of the rural poor, thus contributing to their low levels of knowledge, less favorable attitudes, and less functional skills.

There is, therefore, a great need to gain understanding of the behavior of the rural poor in their information-seeking and information-utilization patterns. Empirical evidence is needed to answer questions such as: To what extent can information consumption by the rural poor reduce the impact of poverty? What types of information are used most effectively by the rural poor? What are some of the personal variables of the rural poor which are positively associated with information consumption? What effect does the informational setting have on the consumption of information by the rural poor?

In an effort to answer some of these questions, this project was designed and implemented in 1973-75 in seven counties of North and Northwest Florida.

Methodology

Since this particular volume describes only the characteristics of the poor, details of experimental design

and development of information packages are not given in this report. They will be presented in Volume IV which deals with experimental effects. In this section an overview of methodological procedures used in this study are given as follows: (1) experimental design; (2) development of research instruments; (3) sample selection; (4) selection and training of research investigators; (5) coding and data analysis; and (6) follow-up study.

Experimental Design

The experimental method utilizing the basic pretest-posttest procedure was chosen for this study. In each of the counties selected, two of the three communities within the county were assigned as treatment groups, and the third community was a control group. The three groups (i.e., communities) were randomly assigned and divided as follows:

Group I ("face-to-face" community).

Information packages were delivered to families, and each publication in the package was explained by the research investigator; the research investigator made at least two follow-up visits to try to motivate the families to use information contained in the package.

Group II ("publications only" community).

Information packages were delivered to families, and the research investigator told the families to read the publications or, in case they could not read, to get someone else to read the

publications to them.

Group III ("control" community).

No information was delivered to the families. Respondents in each of the three groups in each community were administered a bench mark survey, three pretests, and three posttests. The pretest and posttest pertained to the programs in the three information packages given to the two treatment groups in each community.

Sample Selection

The sample selection process consisted of three basic steps-selection of counties, selection of communities, and selection of families.

The 22-county sampling frame and the seven counties ultimately selected in northwest Florida for this study are shown in Figure 1. Starting from the extreme western part of the state, the sampling frame was divided into seven blocks, six of the blocks containing three counties each and one block containing four counties. To maximize external generalizability of the findings based on the incidence of rural poverty, one county with the highest incidence of poverty was selected from each of the seven blocks. The following seven counties thus became the target counties for the study: Franklin, Gadsden, Hamilton, Jackson, Jefferson, Okaloosa, and Washington.

Three more or less structurally similar communities in each county were then identified based on factors such as size, distance from major cities, and general similarity

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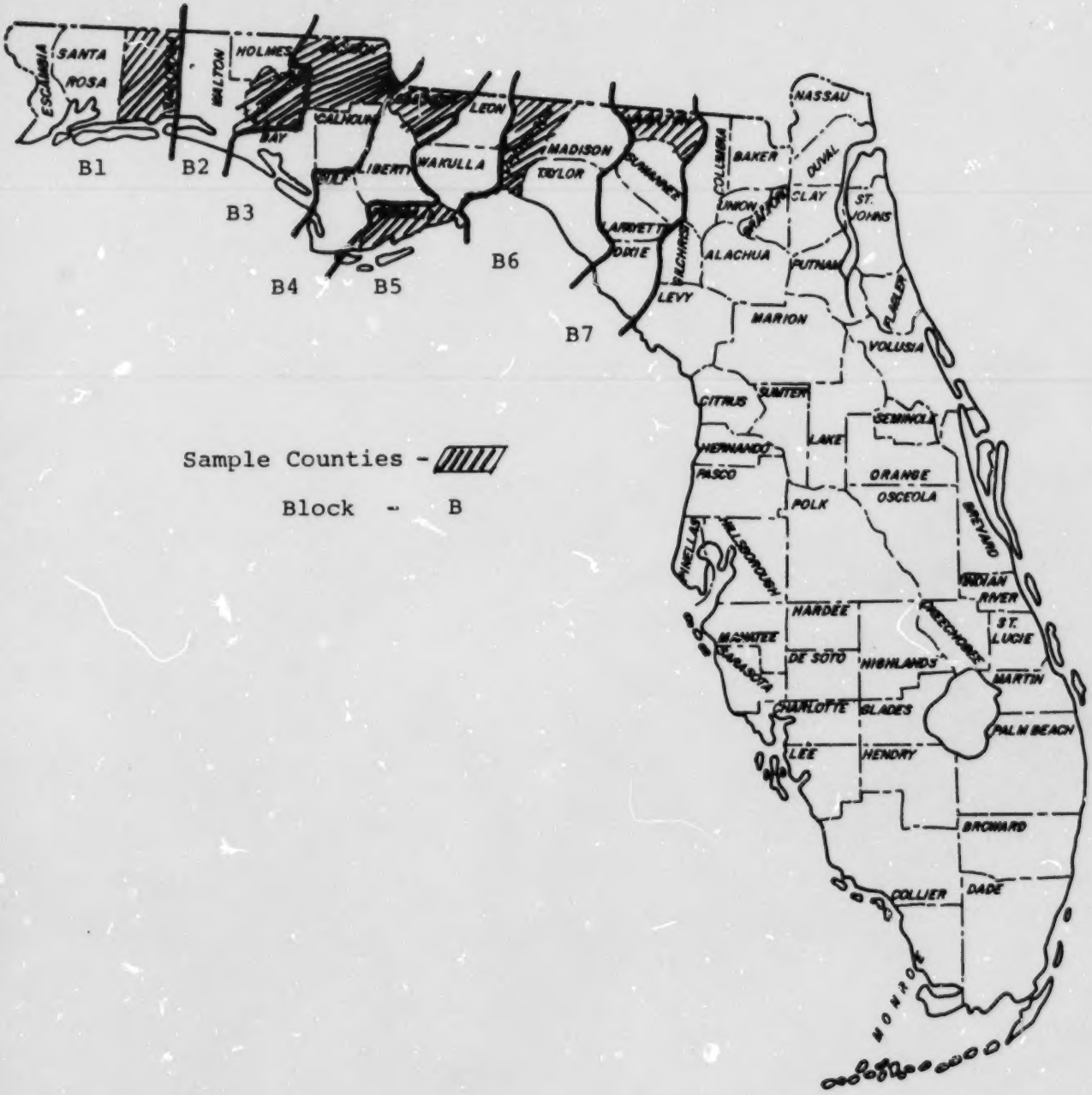

Figure I

Counties in the Sampling Frame and the Sample

on socioeconomic dimensions. Twenty-one rural communities were thus selected.

The final stage in the process was the identification of target families. Forty families were randomly selected from each community (i.e., a total of 840 families) in an attempt to achieve parity in the sample composition of the three communities within each county. In particular, attention was given to ensuring adequate representation from the denser and less densely populated sections of each community. Factors such as race, farm/nonfarm family orientation, location (open country or village), and willingness to participate in the program determined the final selection of the families. In addition, the criteria of poverty as enunciated by the Social Security Administration, Washington, D.C., were used in designing a brief preliminary questionnaire to screen the poor from the non-poor families. These criteria consider such factors as size of family, family background (agricultural or non-agricultural), and head of household (male or female).

Detailed county maps, showing not only the road system in the county but also the location of houses in the less densely populated areas, guided the selection process.

Using these sampling procedures as outlined, the final sample consisted of the following:

Number of counties	=	7
Number of communities	=	21
Number of families	=	840

Development of Research Instruments

All the relevant federal and state agencies sponsoring meaningful programs from the point of view of rural low income families were identified, and information about these programs (including publications, if any) was obtained from each agency. After abstracting the information, three information packages were developed. Analyses of the reading difficulty level of agency publications were made, and revised publications with a low difficulty level were developed in cases where the original publications were considered unsuitable in reading level for the target population. In addition, in cases where no agency publications were available on programs, new publications were developed at an appropriate reading level. All of the publications finally selected and/or developed were placed in pocket folders for delivery to the respondents in the treatment groups.

A bench mark survey was designed for the purpose of securing data about the respondents in the following areas: demographic and background; behavioral; attitudinal; psychological; and aspiration levels. Included within this bench mark survey was the first pretest--the pretest on the first information package--administered to all respondents. Instruments were also designed to be administered to all respondents for the posttest on the first information package, pretests and posttest for the second and third information packages.

A record sheet for follow-up visits about the information packages delivered to Group I ("face-to-face" community) respondents was designed for use by the research investigators in keeping track of what the respondents did with their packages, what they planned to do with them, and levels of interest and understanding regarding the programs included in the packages. These record sheets were completed by the research investigators at each follow-up interview with a respondent in Group I.

Finally, research instruments in the form of a battery of tests were utilized to identify any psycho-attitudinal changes in the research investigators during the course of the study. The battery of tests was administered to all investigators at the beginning and at the end of the year-long field work.

Selection and Training of Research Investigators

A total of eight research investigators were employed to carry out the field work. Six of these investigators were professionals, and two were paraprofessionals.

For all the field staff, a rural background was one of the essential qualifications. In addition, professional investigators were required to have at least a bachelor's degree, and each paraprofessional was required to have at least a high school education.

The entire investigative staff participated in a week-long preservice training program prior to conducting any field work. Throughout the project period, then, one-day

training sessions were held for the investigators just prior to their delivering the next information packages to respondents.

Coding and Data Analyses

All the research instruments were predominantly pre-coded. Electronic scanning sheets were used to transfer the data from all instruments except the bench mark survey, in which case regular coding sheets were used.

Appropriate statistical methods were selected and used for the various types of data gathered. Frequency and percentage distributions, for example, were used in analyzing much of the descriptive information about the respondents. A variety of statistical tests and techniques were employed for other kinds of analyses.

Selection of Anti-Poverty Programs

Seven anti-poverty programs, listed as follows, were selected for the first pretest in this experimental study:

1. Food Stamps
2. Aid to the Blind
3. Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled
4. Aid to Families With Dependent Children
5. Division of Family Services
6. Child Nutrition
7. Old Age Assistance

Additional information about each program is presented

in Appendix A, including sponsoring agency, purpose, approximate age of program, and eligibility criteria.

The primary reason for selecting these seven programs for the first pretest was to enhance acceptance of the study by the sample and to establish legitimacy for the entire information consumption project. These seven programs with their tangible benefits were considered to be more relevant than others to the immediate unmet needs of this population. Thus, responses to ensuing questions in the second and third pre-posttests would be more easily gained because of this initial "helping" relationship.

Findings from a previous study indicated that this population possessed little knowledge about anti-poverty programs. Although this study's ultimate purpose was to bring about changes at the cognitive level, it was recognized that attitudinal changes were necessary forerunners to those knowledge changes.

Organization of This Volume

This volume of the report contains five chapters in addition to this introductory chapter. Chapters II-V include data from responses to eight questions about the seven anti-poverty programs, as follows:

1. Do you know about this program?
2. Does anyone in your family need this program?
3. Do you receive assistance from this program?
4. How much assistance do you receive?

5. How long have you received assistance?

6. Where or from whom did you find out about the program?

7. If not receiving assistance, do you know where to find out about these programs?

8. If not receiving assistance, do you know what would make you eligible?

Chapter VI is an overview and interpretation of the major findings on each of the programs.

Data are presented both narratively and graphically through percentage tables. Chi square was used to identify significant differences in responses according to the variables of race, sex, age, educational level, marital status, employment status, family job classification, and general health conditions of the sample.

CHAPTER II

KNOWLEDGE OF PROGRAMS

When asked, "Do you know about this program?" the sample displayed far more knowledge of Food Stamps than any of the seven programs in the survey. Approximately 90% of both blacks and whites said they knew about that program (Table 1).

Table 1

Percentages of Respondents With Knowledge About Programs by Race

Programs	Total	Black	White	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	90.1 (754)	89.9 (501)	90.4 (253)	.9480
Aid to the Blind	16.2 (116)	15.9 (71)	16.7 (45)	.8641
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	32.5 (233)	32.1 (143)	33.2 (90)	.8135
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	44.1 (367)	47.8 (264)	36.8 (103)	.0031**
Division of Family Services	20.3 (143)	25.1 (109)	12.6 (34)	.0001**
Child Nutrition	51.7 (428)	55.7 (306)	43.7 (122)	.0014**
Old Age Assistance	45.1 (371)	44.0 (240)	47.3 (131)	.4165

Note. N's in parentheses. **$p < .01$

By comparison, only about one-sixth knew about Aid to the Blind, one-third said they knew about Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled, and slightly less than half knew about Old Age Assistance. Three programs were known by significantly more blacks than whites: (1) Aid to Families With Dependent Children (47.8% blacks, 36.8% whites); (2) Division of Family Services (25.1% blacks, 12.6% whites); and (3) Child Nutrition (55.7% blacks, 43.7% whites).

As shown in Table 2, the females were generally more knowledgeable than males about the programs. Among both blacks and whites, significantly more females knew about Aid to Families With Dependent Children and Division of Family Services. Black females also claimed knowledge about Food Stamps more often than their male counterparts.

Although no identifiable pattern emerged, age was an influential variable in knowledge about programs (Table 3). For both races, as might be expected, more of the oldest respondents claimed knowledge of Old Age Assistance, and more of the younger two age groups said they knew about Child Nutrition. Proportionately more of those aged 46-65 than any other age group in both races knew about Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled. Additionally, blacks differed in knowledge about Aid to Families With Dependent Children and the Division of Family services--the younger respondents claimed knowledge of these programs more often than the older ones.

More education did not necessarily indicate broader

Table 2

Percentages of Respondents With Knowledge of Programs by Sex and Race

Programs	Black			White		
	Male	Female	χ^2 Significance	Male	Female	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	84.6% (137)	92.2% (364)	.0108*	90.5% (124)	90.2% (129)	.9067
Aid to the Blind	11.9% (15)	17.4% (56)	.1943	13.3% (18)	20.0% (27)	.1914
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	34.4% (43)	31.2% (100)	.5844	37.5% (51)	28.9% (39)	.1688
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	33.5% (53)	53.6% (211)	.0000**	28.5% (39)	44.8% (64)	.0069**
Division of Family Services	17.2% (21)	28.2% (88)	.0244*	6.7% (9)	18.7% (25)	.0055**
Child Nutrition	49.1% (78)	58.5% (228)	.0552	40.9% (56)	46.5% (66)	.4108
Old Age Assistance	39.7% (62)	45.8% (178)	.2368	45.3% (62)	49.3% (69)	.5814

Note. N's in parentheses. *$p<.05$ **$p<.01$

Table 3

Percentages of Respondents With Knowledge of Programs by Age Groups and Race

Programs	Black					White				
	Below 30	30-45	46-65	Over 65	χ^2 Significance	Below 30	30-45	46-65	Over 65	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	89.5% (68)	89.6% (112)	90.3% (176)	89.7% (140)	.9964	87.9% (29)	81.8% (45)	94.6% (88)	91.9% (91)	.0702
Aid to the Blind	17.5% (11)	17.0% (17)	20.0% (31)	9.5% (12)	.1139	6.5% (2)	12.2% (6)	16.1% (15)	22.7% (22)	.1349
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	31.7% (20)	33.0% (33)	39.4% (61)	22.4% (28)	.0269*	9.7% (3)	22.0% (11)	52.7% (49)	27.8% (27)	.0000**
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	60.5% (46)	60.5% (75)	49.2% (96)	30.3% (46)	.0000**	45.5% (15)	42.9% (24)	36.6% (34)	30.6% (30)	.3128
Division of Family Services	31.7% (19)	37.0% (37)	21.9% (33)	15.8% (19)	.0016**	6.5% (2)	18.0% (9)	8.6% (8)	15.8% (15)	.2033
Child Nutrition	75.0% (57)	78.9% (97)	55.7% (108)	27.8% (42)	.0000**	60.6% (20)	76.4% (42)	37.6% (35)	25.5% (25)	.0000**
Old Age Assistance	32.0% (24)	35.0% (43)	39.8% (76)	60.9% (92)	.0000**	9.1% (3)	21.4% (12)	47.3% (43)	75.3% (73)	.0000**

Note. N's in parentheses. *p<.05 **p<.01

knowledge about programs among these respondents. For example, among both blacks and whites, those having completed the least years of school (0-4 grades) said they knew about Old Age Assistance significantly more often than those more highly educated. In addition, among whites, more of the least educated group knew about Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled. Among blacks, however, those with more schooling were most likely to know about Aid to Families With Dependent Children and the Child Nutrition program.

In both races, marital status was related to respondents' knowledge about Child Nutrition and Old Age Assistance. For blacks, widow-ers were significantly less likely than other groups to know about Child Nutrition, and regarding this same program, the unmarried and widow-er whites were least likely to have knowledge. The widow-ers in both races were more apt to know about Old Age Assistance, but in addition, the percentage of unmarried white respondents claiming knowledge was almost as high as the proportion of white widow-ers. Blacks differed in knowledge of two other programs: (1) those divorced/separated and widowed said more often than other groups that they knew about Food Stamps; and (2) proportionately more unmarried blacks than any other black group knew about Division of Family Services.

The employment status of both blacks and whites resulted in varied responses about Child Nutrition, with full-time workers most likely to know about the program. In addition, it should be noted that the unemployed whites were

considerably less apt to know about this program than any other group. Whites also differed in knowledge of Old Age Assistance, with the unemployed most often and the full-time workers least often reporting knowledge of the program.

Comparing black respondents by family job classification revealed significant knowledge differences on five of the seven programs (Table 4). On one of these programs, Old Age Assistance, both blacks and whites varied significantly. Proportionately more farmers in both races said they knew about the program. The other four programs on which blacks differed were: (1) Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled--those nonclassified were most knowledgeable; (2) Aid to Families With Dependent Children--the nonclassified were most knowledgeable; (3) Division of Family Services--farm laborers were most knowledgeable; and (4) Child Nutrition--farmers were considerably less knowledgeable than any other group.

Significant variations in knowledge were associated with the self-reported health conditions of respondents. These differences emerged in both races with respect to knowledge about Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled and the Child Nutrition program. Blacks in very poor health and whites in poor or very poor health were more likely to know about the program for the disabled. The children's program was better known by blacks in excellent health and by whites in good health. Blacks also differed significantly in knowledge of Aid to Families With Dependent Children, with those in poor health least likely to know about it.

Table 4

Percentages of Respondents With Knowledge of Programs by Family Job and Race

Programs	Black					White				
	Farm	Non-farm	Farm Labor	None	χ^2 Significance	Farm	Non-farm	Farm Labor	None	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	88.3% (68)	88.9% (312)	94.4% (68)	90.9% (40)	.5250	97.1% (33)	89.0% (186)	90.0% (9)	92.0% (23)	.5202
Aid to the Blind	10.4% (7)	17.4% (50)	10.7% (6)	25.0% (8)	.1686	20.6% (7)	17.2% (35)	12.5% (1)	4.3% (1)	.3837
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	23.9% (16)	33.6% (96)	21.4% (12)	59.4% (19)	.0011**	38.2% (13)	29.4% (60)	37.5% (3)	54.2% (13)	.0877
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	36.8% (28)	46.8% (163)	54.2% (39)	63.6% (28)	.0247*	32.4% (11)	35.4% (74)	50.0% (5)	48.0% (12)	.4640
Division of Family Services	18.8% (12)	22.4% (63)	49.1% (26)	22.6% (7)	.0003**	12.1% (4)	13.3% (27)	...	12.5% (3)	.7430
Child Nutrition	39.2% (29)	58.4% (202)	55.6% (40)	64.4% (29)	.0142*	32.4% (11)	44.2% (92)	60.0% (6)	48.0% (12)	.3808
Old Age Assistance	58.1% (43)	44.9% (154)	24.3% (17)	44.4% (20)	.0007**	70.6% (24)	43.2% (89)	40.0% (4)	48.0% (12)	.0294*

Note. N's in parentheses.

*p<.05 **p<.01

Additional differences were found among whites in regard to Old Age Assistance, with the healthier respondents least likely to claim knowledge of the program.

CHAPTER III

NEED FOR PROGRAMS

Of the seven programs surveyed, the one clearly most needed by this sample was Food Stamps. Four-fifths of the respondents (82.1% blacks, 77.8% whites) replied affirmatively about Food Stamps to the question, "Does anyone in your family need this program?" As Table 5 shows, other programs were considerably less needed. Significant differences were

Table 5

Percentages of Respondents Needing Programs by Race

Programs	Total	Black	White	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	80.7 (672)	82.1 (455)	77.8 (217)	.1590
Aid to the Blind	4.4 (31)	3.2 (14)	6.3 (17)	.0691
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	19.2 (137)	18.5 (82)	20.4 (55)	.5911
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	20.3 (169)	25.5 (141)	10.0 (28)	.0000**
Division of Family Services	13.6 (95)	16.9 (73)	8.2 (22)	.0015**
Child Nutrition	39.3 (324)	44.0 (240)	30.1 (84)	.0002**
Old Age Assistance	33.6 (276)	30.9 (168)	39.0 (108)	.0247*

Note. N's in parentheses. *p < .05 **p <.01

found between black and white expressions of need for four programs. Proportionately more blacks than whites said they needed Aid to Families With Dependent Children (25.5% to 10.0%), Division of Family Services (16.9% to 8.2%), and Child Nutrition (44.0% to 30.1%). On the other hand, white respondents reported greater need than blacks for Old Age Assistance (39.0% to 30.9%).

No significant differences were found between responses of the white sexes, but black males and females varied in their need for three programs. Significantly more black males than females reported a need for Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled (25.4% to 15.8%). Black females, however, significantly more often than males expressed a need for Aid to Families With Dependent Children (28.6% to 18.0%) and Division of Family Services (20.0% to 9.0%).

As might be expected, considerable differences in need for programs were reflected according to age groups (Table 6). The 46-65 age group in each race needed Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled more than other groups, and the oldest age group in each race needed the Child Nutrition program least of all groups and Old Age Assistance more than any other age levels. Blacks, in addition, varied significantly in need for Aid to Families With Dependent Children--the 30-45 age group expressed the most need and the oldest age group reported the least need for this program.

A comparison of respondents by education level revealed significant differences in the need for certain programs (Tabl 7). The least educated in both races

Table 6

Percentages of Respondents Needing Programs by Age Groups and Race

Programs	Black					White				
	Below 30	30-45	46-65	Over 65	χ^2 Significance	Below 30	30-45	46-65	Over 65	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	76.3% (58)	88.8% (111)	81.9% (158)	80.6% (125)	.1208	72.7% (24)	70.9% (39)	74.2% (69)	86.7% (85)	.0650
Aid to the Blind	1.6% (1)	2.0% (2)	3.9% (6)	4.0% (5)	.6885	...	4.2% (2)	5.4% (5)	10.4% (10)	.1505
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	8.1% (5)	17.0% (17)	26.3% (40)	15.9% (20)	.0102*	3.2% (1)	12.2% (6)	42.4% (39)	9.3% (9)	.0000**
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	29.3% (22)	38.7% (48)	25.3% (49)	14.2% (22)	.0001**	12.1% (4)	14.3% (8)	11.8% (11)	5.1% (5)	.2342
Division of Family Services	21.7% (13)	23.2% (23)	11.3% (17)	16.7% (20)	.0697	...	8.0% (4)	7.5% (7)	11.6% (11)	.2329
Child Nutrition	42.7% (32)	78.0% (96)	42.5% (82)	18.7% (28)	.0000**	40.6% (13)	64.3% (36)	24.7% (23)	12.2% (12)	.0000**
Old Age Assistance	6.7% (5)	10.6% (13)	26.3% (50)	64.9% (98)	.0000**	3.0% (1)	7.1% (4)	28.6% (26)	79.4% (77)	.0000**

Note. N's in parentheses.

*$p<.05$ **$p<.01$

Table 7

Percentages of Respondents Needing Programs by Educational Level and Race

Programs	Black				White			
	0-4	5-8	9 and up	χ^2 Significance	0-4	5-8	9 and up	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	84.1% (169)	79.7% (157)	83.8% (124)	.4536	85.4% (76)	74.0% (91)	74.2% (49)	.1067
Aid to the Blind	3.2% (5)	4.2% (6)	2.2% (3)	.6481	10.2% (9)	3.5% (4)	6.2% (4)	.1521
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	23.6% (37)	19.6% (28)	12.3% (17)	.0448*	33.7% (30)	15.7% (18)	10.9% (7)	.0006**
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	19.9% (40)	28.4% (56)	30.6% (45)	.0467*	16.7% (15)	7.3% (9)	6.2% (4)	.0382*
Division of Family Services	16.1% (24)	16.8% (24)	17.8% (24)	.9315	8.0% (7)	6.9% (8)	10.8% (7)	.6591
Child Nutrition	34.5% (68)	45.1% (88)	56.2% (82)	.0003**	27.8% (25)	34.1% (42)	26.2% (17)	.4353
Old Age Assistance	50.5% (98)	27.0% (53)	10.3% (15)	.0000**	51.1% (46)	36.6% (45)	25.4% (16)	.0046**

Note. N's in parentheses.

*p<.05 **p<.01

reported the most need for Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled and for Old Age Assistance. Variations in both races were also found with respect to Aid to Families With Dependent Children. Among blacks, the most highly educated expressed the greatest need; however, among whites, the least educated reported the most need. In addition to these differences, blacks varied significantly in their need for Child Nutrition, with proportionately more of the highest educational level saying they needed this program.

Need for programs varied according to marital status of respondents, and significantly different responses were given by both blacks and whites on three programs. First, the need for Aid to Families With Dependent Children was more predominant among unmarried blacks and among divorced or separated whites than any other of their respective groups. Second, Child Nutrition was considerably less needed by widow-ers of both races. Third, Old Age Assistance was needed most by the widow-ers of both races, but among whites, even greater need for the program was expressed by unmarried individuals. Black respondents also varied by marital status on Division of Family Services, with considerably more unmarried persons than any other groups reporting a need for this program.

Both blacks and whites differed significantly by employment status in need for the Child Nutrition program, with proportionately more of the full-time workers in both groups saying they needed it. Old Age Assistance also

elicited significantly different responses in both races, with the unemployed persons exhibiting greater need than part-time or full-time workers. Additionally, a variation was found among blacks regarding Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled--not surprisingly, the full-time workers were significantly less likely to need this program.

Expressions of need for the programs varied greatly according to the family job classification of repsondents (Table 8). Responses to about four programs revealed significant differences among both blacks and whites: (1) Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled--those with no job classifications in both races expressed greater need than other groups; (2) Aid to Families With Dependent Children--among blacks, the farm laborers and the unclassified more often stated a need, and among whites, the most need was reported by those without job classifications; (3) Child Nutrition--farmers in both races were much less likely to report a need; and (4) Old Age Assistance--farmers in both races were much more likely to report a need. In addition to these differences, Table 8 shows that blacks varied significantly about the Division of Family Services, with proportionately more farm laborers than any other group saying they needed the program.

A pattern of greater need for programs by respondents in poorer health was evident, particularly among whites. Four programs--Food Stamps, Aid to the Blind, Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled, and Old Age Assistance--

Table 8

Percentages of Respondents Needing Programs by Family Job and Race

Programs	Black					White				
	Farm	Non-farm	Farm Labor	None	χ^2 Significance	Farm	Non-farm	Farm Labor	None	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	81.6% (62)	79.1% (277)	90.3% (65)	88.4% (38)	.0956	90.9% (30)	74.6% (156)	70.0% (7)	92.0% (23)	.0503
Aid to the Blind	1.5% (1)	3.9% (11)	1.8% (1)	3.3% (1)	.7037	6.1% (2)	6.9% (14)	12.5% (1)	...	.5380
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	14.9% (10)	18.0% (51)	14.3% (8)	41.9% (13)	.0060**	17.6% (6)	17.2% (35)	28.6% (2)	50.0% (12)	.0022**
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	20.8% (16)	21.6% (75)	37.5% (27)	43.2% (19)	.0009**	...	9.1% (19)	10.0% (1)	28.0% (7)	.0041**
Division of Family Services	18.8% (12)	11.8% (33)	39.6% (21)	20.0% (6)	.0000**	3.0% (1)	8.9% (18)	...	12.5% (3)	.4587
Child Nutrition	28.4% (21)	44.2% (152)	52.8% (38)	54.5% (24)	.0090**	11.8% (4)	31.3% (65)	50.0% (5)	36.0% (9)	.0486*
Old Age Assistance	50.0% (37)	27.4% (94)	27.1% (19)	29.5% (13)	.0017**	61.8% (21)	36.4% (75)	30.0% (3)	32.0% (8)	.0314*

Note. N's in parentheses. *p<.05 **p<.01

were needed significantly more often by the poorer health groups among whites. A significant difference among whites in need for Child Nutrition was also noted, but the greatest percentages needing this program were in good or fair health. Blacks varied significantly in responses about two programs, Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled and Old Age Assistance. In both cases, those in poorer health reported greater need for the programs than those in better health.

CHAPTER IV

USE OF PROGRAMS

This chapter presents data regarding actual use of the programs. The sections include information about respondents who were receiving assistance, the amount of that assistance, how long they had received assistance, and their sources of information about the programs.

Receiving Assistance

As reflected in Table 9, more respondents were receiving assistance from Food Stamps than from any other program (51.1% blacks, 41.4% whites). In general, Child Nutrition and Old Age Assistance provided help to the next highest proportions of respondents, with slightly over one-third and slightly less than one-fourth of the sample receiving aid from these two programs respectively. Table 9 also shows that blacks and whites differed significantly in their responses about four programs to the question, "Do you receive assistance from this program?" Proportionately more blacks than whites were assisted by Food Stamps, Aid to Families With Dependent Children, and Child Nutrition. A greater proportion of whites than blacks, however, was being helped by Old Age Assistance.

Table 9

Percentages of Respondents Receiving Assistance from Programs by Race

Programs	Total	Black	White	X^2 Significance
Food Stamps	47.8 (400)	51.1 (284)	41.4 (116)	.0104*
Aid to the Blind	1.3 (9)	.9 (4)	1.9 (5)	.4439
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	11.7 (84)	11.4 (51)	12.2 (33)	.8489
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	15.2 (127)	19.7 (109)	6.4 (18)	.0000**
Division of Family Services	3.7 (26)	4.6 (20)	2.2 (6)	.1562
Child Nutrition	35.8 (297)	40.5 (223)	26.4 (74)	.0001**
Old Age Assistance	23.6 (194)	21.3 (116)	28.2 (78)	.0351*

Note. N's in parentheses. *p < .05 **p < .01

The data did not reveal sex differences in regard to receiving assistance from programs except in two instances, both of which were among blacks. Black females were significantly more likely than black males to receive Food Stamps (53.9% to 44.1%) and Aid to Families With Dependent Children (22.4% to 13.0%).

Significant age differences among recipients were found among both blacks and whites (Table 10). In both races, the

Table 10

Percentages of Respondents Receiving Assistance from Programs by Age Groups and Race

Programs	Black					White				
	Below 30	30-45	46-65	Over 65	χ^2 Significance	Below 30	30-45	46-65	Over 65	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	42.1% (32)	57.6% (72)	47.4% (92)	55.1% (86)	.0844	24.2% (8)	25.5% (14)	40.9% (38)	56.6% (56)	.0003**
Aid to the Blind	...	1.0% (1)	1.9% (3)	...	.3065	...	4.1% (2)	1.1% (1)	2.1% (2)	.5207
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	4.8% (3)	8.0% (8)	16.8% (26)	11.1% (14)	.0406*	3.2% (1)	6.0% (3)	24.7% (23)	6.2% (6)	.0001**
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	22.4% (17)	29.0% (36)	20.5% (40)	10.4% (16)	.0014**	9.1% (3)	12.5% (7)	3.2% (3)	5.1% (5)	.1275
Division of Family Services	5.0% (3)	7.0% (7)	2.0% (3)	5.8% (7)	.2546	...	2.0% (1)	1.1% (1)	4.2% (4)	.3922
Child Nutrition	40.8% (31)	71.8% (89)	38.7% (75)	17.2% (26)	.0000**	36.4% (12)	60.7% (34)	21.5% (20)	8.2% (8)	.0000**
Old Age Assistance	4.0% (3)	8.9% (11)	15.2% (29)	47.7% (72)	.0000**	...	3.6% (2)	25.3% (23)	54.6% (53)	.0000**

Note. N's in parentheses. *p<.05 **p<.01

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recipients of Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled were most likely to be in the 46-65 age group, those receiving Child Nutrition were most apt to be in the 30-45 age group, and the oldest respondents were most likely to receive Old Age Assistance. In addition, whites varied significantly on Food Stamps, with the two older groups more likely than the younger groups to be recipients. Blacks also differed significantly on Aid to Families With Dependent Children--the oldest respondents were not as likely as younger individuals to receive this assistance.

The proportions of respondents receiving assistance varied significantly on several programs according to educational background. Data in Table 11 reveal that both blacks and whites differed significantly by schooling in receiving help from Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled and from Old Age Assistance. In both races, proportionately more of the lowest educational group received aid from both programs. Significant differences among blacks were found on two additional programs: the lowest educational group was least likely to receive Aid to Families With Dependent Children and the Child Nutrition program. Whites also differed significantly on two other programs: (1) the greatest proportion of Food Stamps recipients was in the lowest educational group; and (2) those with the most years of schooling were more likely than others to receive help from Division of Family Services.

Marital status significantly differentiated responses

Table 11

Percentages of Respondents Receiving Assistance from Programs by Educational Level and Race

Programs	Black				White			
	0-4	5-8	9 and up	χ^2 Significance	0-4	5-8	9 and up	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	55.5% (111)	51.0% (102)	44.6% (66)	.1321	56.7% (51)	35.8% (44)	30.3% (20)	.0011**
Aid to the Blind	.6% (1)	1.4% (2)	.7% (1)	.7680	2.2% (2)	.9% (1)	3.1% (2)	.5436
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	15.2% (24)	13.0% (19)	5.8% (8)	.0328*	23.6% (21)	7.8% (9)	4.6% (3)	.0003**
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	14.4% (29)	23.7% (47)	22.4% (33)	.0453*	11.1% (10)	4.8% (6)	3.1% (2)	.0821
Division of Family Services	5.4% (8)	2.8% (4)	5.1% (7)	.4955	1.1% (1)	.9% (1)	6.2% (4)	.0491*
Child Nutrition	29.9% (59)	43.7% (86)	51.4% (76)	.0002**	25.6% (23)	29.0% (36)	23.1% (15)	.6571
Old Age Assistance	35.6% (69)	18.3% (36)	6.2% (9)	.0000**	38.9% (35)	25.2% (31)	17.5% (11)	.0097**

Note. N's in parentheses.

*p<.05 **p<.01

of both blacks and whites on three programs. As might be expected, the widow-ers of both races were most likely to be recipients of Old Age Assistance and least likely to receive help from the Child Nutrition program. In regard to Aid to Families With Dependent Children, the unmarried blacks and the divorced or separated whites were most apt to be recipients. Additionally, blacks differed significantly by marital status in receipt of Food Stamps, with proportionately less of the married respondents involved in this program.

In general, among both blacks and whites, the unemployed respondents were more often recipients of assistance than full-time or part-time workers. Table 12 reflects this general pattern, as well as significant differences among respondents in both races according to employment status. The data show that, in comparison with other groups, unemployed blacks and whites were most likely to receive Food Stamps and Old Age Assistnace. However, among both blacks and whites, the full-time workers were most apt to receive assistance from the Child Nutrition program. Blacks differed significantly on one other program, Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled--more unemployed individuals than full-time or part-time workers were receiving this help.

In general, respondents with no family job classification reported receiving assistance from these programs more often than farmers, nonfarmers, and farm laborers. As Table 13 shows, significant differences were found in both races on this variable. Among both blacks and whites, the

Table 12

Percentages of Respondents Receiving Assistance from Programs by Employment Status and Race

Programs	Black				White			
	Full-time	Part-time	None	χ^2 Significance	Full-time	Part-time	None	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	34.8% (32)	44.9% (44)	56.5% (203)	.0004**	6.1% (2)	33.3% (9)	47.5% (104)	.0000**
Aid to the Blind	...	...	1.3% (4)	.3771	...	...	2.3% (5)	.5058
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	2.9% (2)	6.8% (5)	14.4% (43)	.0094**	3.2% (1)	3.8% (1)	14.5% (31)	.0790
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	14.4% (13)	16.3% (16)	21.4% (77)	.2264	...	3.7% (1)	7.3% (16)	.2261
Division of Family Services	...	5.5% (4)	5.6% (16)	.1300	...	4.0% (1)	2.3% (5)	.5829
Child Nutrition	52.7% (48)	37.8% (37)	37.9% (134)	.0302*	51.5% (17)	33.3% (9)	21.5% (47)	.0008**
Old Age Assistance	6.8% (6)	12.5% (12)	27.1% (96)	.0000**	3.0% (1)	7.7% (2)	34.1% (74)	.0001**

Note. N's in parentheses. *p<.05 **p<.01

individuals without job classifications were much more likely than other groups to be getting Food Stamps. On the other hand, in comparison with other groups, farmers in both races were the ones most apt to receive Old Age Assistance and least likely to receive aid from the Child Nutrition program. Further differences were found among black respondents, with the non-classified individuals most often receiving Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled and Aid to Families With Dependent Children.

Poorer health conditions of respondents in both races appeared to be positively related to receiving Food Stamps, Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled, and Old Age Assistance. An additional significant difference was noted in white responses about the Child Nutrition program, with those in better health reporting more often than those in worse health that they received assistance.

Amount of Assistance

Respondents receiving assistance from these programs were asked, "How much do you recieve per month?" and in regard to the Child Nutrition program, "How many children in the program?" Their answers were categorized into increments of $50, ranging from "$49.99 and less" to $200.00 and up."

Table 14 shows the proportions of the total sample receiving each amount from each of six programs and the number of children in the Child Nutrition program. Although a precise pattern is not discernible, the lesser amounts

Table 13

Percentages of Respondents Receiving Assistance from Programs by Family Job and Race

Programs	Black					White				
	Farm	Non-farm	Farm Labor	None	χ^2 Significance	Farm	Non-farm	Farm Labor	None	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	46.8% (36)	48.9% (171)	51.4% (37)	72.7% (32)	.0233*	58.8% (20)	35.4% (74)	40.0% (4)	68.0% (17)	.0021**
Aid to the Blind	...	1.0% (3)	...	3.1% (1)	.4008	2.9% (1)	2.0% (4)	...	...	.8454
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	4.5% (3)	12.9% (37)	5.4% (3)	25.0% (8)	.0090**	14.7% (5)	9.8% (20)	12.5% (1)	29.2% (7)	.0519
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	14.5% (11)	17.8% (62)	23.6% (17)	33.3% (15)	.0423*	...	6.2% (13)	...	16.0% (4)	.0680
Division of Family Services	6.3% (4)	3.6% (10)	5.7% (3)	9.7% (3)	.3907	...	2.0% (4)	...	8.3% (2)	.1661
Child Nutrition	24.3% (18)	41.8% (145)	45.8% (33)	48.9% (22)	.0152*	11.8% (4)	26.3% (55)	50.0% (5)	36.0% (9)	.0498*
Old Age Assistance	31.1% (23)	21.3% (73)	8.6% (6)	20.0% (9)	.0110*	52.9% (18)	23.8% (49)	20.0% (2)	32.0% (8)	.0050**

Note. N's in parentheses.

*p<.05 **p<.01

Table 13

Percentages of Respondents Receiving Assistance from Programs by Family Job and Race

Programs	Black					White				
	Farm	Non-farm	Farm Labor	None	χ^2 Significance	Farm	Non-farm	Farm Labor	None	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	46.8% (36)	48.9% (171)	51.4% (37)	72.7% (32)	.0233*	58.8% (20)	35.4% (74)	40.0% (4)	68.0% (17)	.0021**
Aid to the Blind	...	1.0% (3)	...	3.1% (1)	.4008	2.9% (1)	2.0% (4)	...	...	.8454
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	4.5% (3)	12.9% (37)	5.4% (3)	25.0% (8)	.0090**	14.7% (5)	9.8% (20)	12.5% (1)	29.2% (7)	.0519
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	14.5% (11)	17.8% (62)	23.6% (17)	33.3% (15)	.0423*	...	6.2% (13)	...	16.0% (4)	.0680
Division of Family Services	6.3% (4)	3.6% (10)	5.7% (3)	9.7% (3)	.3907	...	2.0% (4)	...	8.3% (2)	.1661
Child Nutrition	24.3% (18)	41.8% (145)	45.8% (33)	48.9% (22)	.0152*	11.8% (4)	26.3% (55)	50.0% (5)	36.0% (9)	.0498*
Old Age Assistance	31.1% (23)	21.3% (73)	8.6% (6)	20.0% (9)	.0110*	52.9% (18)	23.8% (49)	20.0% (2)	32.0% (8)	.0050**

Note. N's in parentheses.

*p<.05 **p<.01

Table 14

Percentages of Recipients With Each Monthly Amount of Program Assistance and Number of Children on Child Nutrition (Total Sample)

Programs	Monthly Amounts				
	$49.99 and less	$50.00-99.99	$100.00-149.99	$150.00-199.99	$200.00 and up
Food Stamps	34.9 (132)	32.0 (121)	12.9 (49)	10.1 (38)	10.1 (38)
Aid to the Blind	16.7 (1)	16.7 (1)	16.7 (1)	...	50.0 (3)
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	2.5 (2)	28.4 (23)	29.6 (24)	11.1 (9)	28.4 (23)
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	24.8 (30)	27.3 (33)	16.5 (20)	15.7 (19)	15.7 (19)
Division of Family Services	41.7 (5)	8.3 (1)	16.7 (2)	8.3 (1)	25.0 (3)
Old Age Assistance	7.7 (14)	30.2 (55)	24.7 (45)	11.5 (21)	25.8 (47)

	Number of Children							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 and up
Child Nutrition	21.8 (41)	17.0 (32)	20.2 (38)	13.8 (26)	11.1 (21)	7.5 (14)	5.3 (10)	3.2 (6)

Note. N's in parentheses.

predominated the assistance levels per month. Additionally, almost three-fourths of those receiving Child Nutrition had four or less children.

The sample varied significantly by race in the amounts received per month from Food Stamps ($p < .0269$), with blacks more likely to receive larger amounts than whites. Although blacks also tended to receive greater amounts per month from Old Age Assistance and to have more children in the Child Nutrition program than whites, these differences were not statistically significant (.05 level).

No significant differences were found in monthly allocations on the bases of sex or general health conditions of respondents. Age differences in both races, however, were noted with respect to Food Stamps and Old Age Assistance. Among both blacks and whites, the younger Food Stamps recipients (under 30 and 30-45) were more likely than older ones (46-65 and over 65) to get the larger amounts per month. An additional difference was found among white age groups receiving benefits from the Child Nutrition program--the middle age groups (30-45 and 46-65) were clearly more likely than the youngest (under 30) or oldest (over 65) groups to have more children in the program.

Educational differences were found in one instance. Among blacks, Food Stamps recipients with more education (9 or more grades completed) were the ones most likely to receive larger amounts of assistance per month.

The marital status of both black and white recipients

appeared to make a significant difference in amounts from Food Stamps. Among blacks, the widow-ers clearly were receiving the least assistance per month, with the unmarried recipients generally getting slightly higher allotments than either the married or divorced/separated ones. Among whites, those not married (i.e., unmarried, divorced or separated, widow-er) all were receiving considerably less Food Stamps assistance than married persons. Marital status also significantly differentiated amounts of Old Age Assistance among blacks--married recipients were generally more highly represented than other groups in the higher allotment categories.

Employment status differences were found among white recipients in regard to number of children in the Child Nutrition program. Generally, the unemployed recipients had the smallest number of children in the program, and the full-time workers had the most children. Blacks differed by employment status in amounts received from Old Age Assistance, with unemployed recipients getting the largest amounts per month, followed closely by the part-time employed recipients.

The family job classification was a significantly differentiating variable in one instance. The white recipients who had no job classification generally were getting higher monthly amounts of Old Age Assistance than other groups; however, the farmers clearly were receiving the highest monthly allocations ($200.00 and up).

Table 15

Percentages of Recipients According to Length of Time in Program

Programs	Length of Time				
	6 months and under	over 6 months-1 year	over 1 year-1½ years	over 1½ years-2 years	over 2 years
Food Stamps	19.2 (67)	33.8 (118)	19.8 (69)	24.6 (86)	2.6 (9)[a]
Aid to the Blind	25.0 (1)	25.0 (1)	...	...	50.0 (2)
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	9.6 (5)	23.1 (12)	11.5 (6)	15.4 (8)	40.4 (21)
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	25.5 (24)	21.3 (20)	13.8 (13)	12.8 (12)	26.6 (25)
Division of Family Services	11.1 (2)	27.8 (5)	11.1 (2)	22.2 (4)	27.8 (5)
Child Nutrition	24.8 (64)	24.0 (62)	17.1 (44)	6.6 (17)	27.5 (71)
Old Age Assistance	5.3 (7)	15.0 (20)	12.8 (17)	10.5 (14)	56.4 (75)

Note. N's in parentheses.

[a]This officially became the Food Stamps program in Florida in 1972. Prior to 1972, this assistance was delivered through the Commodity Foods program.

Duration of Assistance

Those receiving assistance from these programs were also asked, "How long have you received this program?" Responses were categorized into six-month increments ranging from "6 months and under" to "over 2 years." Table 15 displays these responses by the total sample.

These data show that, generally, more of the respondents were in their first year as recipients than in their second or third years. Two programs were exceptions--more recipients of Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled and of Old Age Assistance were in their third years as compared with first and second year recipients.*

Additionally, Table 15 shows that approximately one-fourth of those receiving Aid to the Blind (25.0%, but representing only one respondent), Aid to Families With Dependent Children (25.5%), and Child Nutrition (24.8%) were relatively "new" recipients, i.e., in their first six months with the programs. About one-fifth of the Food Stamps recipients (19.2%), only one-tenth of the Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled (9.6%) and Division of Family Services (11.1%) recipients, and only 5.3% of the Old Age Assistance recipients could be categorized as "new."

One striking statistic revealed in Table 15 is that the

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*Although Aid to the Blind recipients were equally divided between first and third years, the small number of recipients precludes generalization.

proportion of Food Stamps recipients getting assistance for "over 2 years" (2.6%) was considerably smaller than the proportions for any other programs in the same time span. As noted on the table, this might be explained by the fact that this program officially became the Food Stamps program in Florida in 1972. Prior to that time, this assistance was provided through the Commodity Foods program which had been in operation for many years. Thus, the "newness" of the Food Stamps program affected the responses regarding length of time in the program.

Significant differences were found between the races in regard to length of time in the Food Stamps ($p < .0003$) and Old Age Assistance ($p < .0082$) programs. In general, black recipients had been getting Food Stamps longer than white recipients, but whites had been receiving Old Age Assistance longer than blacks.

Males and females differed in only one instance--the white males had been recipients of Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled longer than the white females. Age differences among whites were also found in regard to this program, with those in the 46-65 age group most likely to have received assistance longer than recipients of other ages. One other age difference was found--among blacks, both the youngest (under 30) and oldest (over 65) recipients had received Old Age Assistance longer than the two middle age groups (30-45 and 46-65).

Significant differences related to education levels

of recipients occurred in only one program. Whites receiving Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled for longer periods of time were most likely to be in the lowest educational group (0-4 school grades completed).

Marital status was a significantly differentiating variable among whites with respect to length of time in the Child Nutrition program. The widow-ers with children in this program had been receiving assistance longer than either the married or divorced/separated recipients.

Among blacks, the family job classification was a significant factor regarding length of time in the Old Age Assistance program. The farm laborers had been receiving this assistance for a much shorter length of time than either farmers, nonfarmers, or those without job classificatons. The farmers and nonfarmers had been recipients for the longest periods.

Source of Knowledge

Recipients of assistance were asked, "Where or from whom did you find out about the program?" The six categories of sources are shown for each program in Table 16, along with the proportion of recipients identifying each source.

In general, responses indicated that information about these programs came from a variety of sources, but a broad interpretation of these data suggests that the most important sources of information were: (1) agency workers; (2) social workers; (3) friends; and (4) other. The school was a knowledge source for only one program, Child Nutrition, but it was overwhelmingly the primary source (named by 90.7% of

Table 16

Percentages of Recipients According to Source of Knowledge About Program

Programs	Sources of Knowledge					
	Friends	Social Workers	Agency* Workers	Brochure	School	Other
Food Stamps	16.8 (63)	26.4 (99)	42.7 (160)	...	...	14.1 (53)
Aid to the Blind	...	22.2 (2)	11.1 (1)	...	...	66.7 (6)
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	11.5 (9)	24.4 (19)	47.4 (37)	...	...	16.7 (13)
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	24.8 (26)	35.2 (37)	29.4 (31)	...	...	10.5 (11)
Division of Family Services	19.1 (4)	42.8 (9)	19.1 (4)	...	...	19.1 (4)
Child Nutrition	2.2 (6)	.4 (1)	1.1 (3)	5.2 (14)	90.7 (243)	.4 (1)
Old Age Assistance	17.5 (24)	27.0 (37)	44.5 (61)	...	...	11.0 (15)

Note. N's in parentheses. *Other than social work.

the recipients). Brochures apparently were the least important of all sources, with only one instance of use reported (5.2% of the Child Nutrition recipients said they learned about the program from a brochure).

Table 16 also shows that agency workers were primary sources of knowledge about Food Stamps (for 42.7% of the program's recipients), Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled (for 47.4%), and Old Age Assistance (for 44.5%). Social workers were the chief information sources about Aid to Families With Dependent Children (for 35.2% of the program's recipients) and Division of Family Services (for 42.8%). It should be noted that although information about Aid to Families With Dependent Children most often came from social workers (35.2%), two other important sources were agency workers (29.4%) and friends (24.8%). Finally, Aid to the Blind recipients most often reported "other" as their source of knowledge about the program (66.7%).

No significant differences in sources of information were found according to the sex, age, or educational level of recipients. However, a significant difference ($p < .0024$) between races was revealed in regard to source of knowledge about Food Stamps. By comparison, white recipients of Food Stamps were more likely than black recipients to find out about the program from friends (27.5% whites, 12.4% blacks), and black recipients were more likely than whites to learn about the program from agency workers (46.2% blacks, 33.9% whites).

Sources of information about Old Age Assistance for white recipients differed significantly according to three variables. Analyses by marital status, employment status, and family job classification of whites resulted in considerable differences regarding knowledge sources.

The marital status analysis of white recipients of Old Age Assistance showed that friends were almost equally important knowledge sources for married (13.6%), divorced/separated (20.0%), and widow-er (17.2%) recipients, while unmarried recipients did not report friends at all as a source. Unmarried recipients were much more likely to find out about this program from social workers (66.7%) than were the other marital status groups (widow-er, 34.5%; married, 9.1%; divorced/separated, none). Agency workers were more important sources of knowledge for married recipients (77.3%) than for the other groups (unmarried, 33.3%; divorced/separated, 40.0%; widow-er, 34.5%). Finally, divorced or separated recipients more often reported some "other" (40.0%) as the source of knowledge than did the other groups (widow-er, 13.8%; married and unmarried, none).

Regarding differences among whites according to employment status, it should be pointed out that the unemployed whites were much more highly represented as recipients of Old Age Assistance than either full-time or part-time workers (Table 12). In comparing knowledge sources, the one part-time employed recipient named friends, and the one full-time worker identified "other." For unemployed

recipients, the most important sources were agency workers (51.8%), followed by social workers (25.0%), friends (14.3%), and "otehr" (8.9%).

The analysis by family job classification revealed that white recipients reporting no job classification were more likely to learn about Old Age Assistance from friends (25.0%) than were any of the other groups (farmers, 8.3%; nonfarmers, 16.7%; farm laborers, none). Also, the non-classified recipients learned about the program more often from agency workers (62.5%) than did the other groups (farmers, 16.7%; nonfarmers, 58.3%; farm laborers, 50.0%). The farming recipients reported social workers (58.3%) as information sources more often than did nonfarmers (19.4%), farm laborers (none), and nonclassified (none) recipients. Finally, "other" was reported more often as the source of knowledge for farm laborers (50.0%) than for farmers (16.7%), nonfarerms (5.6%), or those with no family job classification (12.5%).

Health conditions of both black and white recipients made a significant difference in sources of knowledge about Aid to Families With Dependent Children. Among blacks, those in better health were more likely to find out about the program from social workers or some "other," while those in poorer health were more likely to get information from agency workers. Friends were more important sources for black recipients in good or very poor health than for those in fair or poor health, while those in excellent health did not report friends as an information source. For

whites, those in better health were more likely to learn about this program from social workers and some "other," and whites in poorer health reported friends or social workers as primary information sources. Agency workers were cited equally by whites in good or poor health, followed by those in fair health, while those in excellent or very poor health did not report agency workers at all as a source.

Health conditions of whites also differentiated among the sources of knowledge about Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled. Social workers were the primary sources for those in good (100.0%), fair (66.7%), and very poor health (66.7%), and agency workers were the main sources for those in poor health (52.9%). The one recipient in excellent health who received assistance from this program did not report a source.

CHAPTER V

POTENTIAL USE OF PROGRAMS

Nonrecipients of program assistance were asked two questions related to potential use of the programs: (1) "Do you know where to find out about this program?" and (2) "Do you know what would make you eligible for it?"

Knowledge of Source

When nonrecipients were asked if they knew where to find out about programs, 64.9% of the respondents replied affirmatively about Food Stamps. As Table 17 shows, considerably fewer respondents knew where to get information about all other programs. In addition, the table reveals that no significant race differences existed regarding knowledge about sources of information.

A significant difference ($p < .0331$) was reflected in the responses of white males and females about the Child Nutrition program. The females were more likely than the males to know where to get information (22.8% to 10.4%).

Age groups in both races varied significantly in their responses about several programs. Table 18 displays data showing that, among blacks, younger age was related to greater likelihood of knowing where to find out about programs. Furthermore, the younger blacks were significantly

Table 17

Percentages of Nonrecipients Who Knew Where to Find Out About Programs According to Race

Programs	Total	Black	White	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	64.9 (239)	62.2 (140)	69.2 (99)	.2072
Aid to the Blind	9.4 (64)	9.2 (39)	9.8 (25)	.9048
Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled	16.2 (97)	16.1 (60)	16.4 (37)	.9822
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	19.6 (127)	21.9 (90)	15.5 (37)	.0625
Division of Family Services	17.4 (113)	16.9 (66)	18.1 (47)	.7836
Child Nutrition	18.4 (90)	19.5 (57)	16.8 (33)	.5231
Old Age Assistance	16.4 (94)	18.0 (70)	13.0 (24)	.1658

Note. N's in parentheses.

more knowledgeable than older blacks about information sources for Food Stamps, Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled, Aid to Families With Dependent Children, Division of Family Services, and Child Nutrition. Table 18 also shows fewer differences among white age groups and that the pattern of younger age associated with knowing where to find information was not as evident as in the black age groups. Among whites, the younger respondents were significantly more likely than older ones to say they knew where

Table 18

Percentages of Nonrecipients Who Knew Where to Find Out About Programs According to Age and Race

Programs	Black					White				
	Below 30	30-45	46-65	Over 65	χ^2 Significance	Below 30	30-45	46-65	Over 65	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	77.1 (27)	71.1 (32)	59.5 (47)	50.8 (32)	.0356*	70.8 (17)	78.9 (30)	65.2 (30)	62.9 (22)	.4354
Aid to the Blind	8.3 (5)	12.5 (12)	9.0 (13)	7.4 (9)	.6244	3.2 (1)	6.5 (3)	7.9 (7)	15.6 (14)	.1195
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	19.2 (10)	16.9 (15)	21.7 (26)	8.3 (9)	.0444*	...	13.0 (6)	28.1 (18)	15.1 (13)	.0051**
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	43.1 (22)	31.0 (26)	18.0 (25)	12.1 (16)	.0000**	17.9 (5)	26.7 (12)	15.0 (12)	9.4 (8)	.0783
Division of Family Services	30.0 (15)	28.2 (24)	10.7 (15)	10.7 (12)	.0001**	13.3 (4)	18.8 (9)	10.9 (10)	26.7 (24)	.0424*
Child Nutrition	52.8 (19)	25.8 (8)	17.9 (19)	8.5 (10)	.0000**	23.8 (5)	38.1 (8)	11.6 (8)	14.0 (12)	.0243*
Old Age Assistance	25.0 (16)	18.7 (20)	19.4 (28)	7.2 (5)	.0508	3.0 (1)	11.8 (6)	13.1 (8)	23.1 (9)	.0916

Note. N's in parentheses. *$p < .05$ **$p < .01$

to find out about Child Nutrition, but the oldest (over 65) were more likely to know where to get information about Division of Family Services. Additionally, white non-recipients most apt to know where to find out about Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled were in the 46-65 age group.

Educational levels of nonrecipients, especially those of the blacks, apparently influenced the knowledge of where to find out about programs (Table 19). Blacks in the highest educational group (9 or more grades completed) said they knew where to get information about Food Stamps, Aid to Families With Dependent Children, Division of Family Services, and Child Nutrition signficantly more often than those in the lower educational groups (0-4 and 5-8 grades completed). Also, the more highly educated whites (9 or more grades completed) were significantly more knowledgeable than those with less education about where to find information on Aid to Families With Dependent Children.

The marital status variable revealed significant differences in regard to several programs. For example, unmarried blacks were more likely than the other marital status groups to know where to find out about Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled and the Division of Family Services, and married and divorced/separated blacks were most likely to know where to get information about Child Nutrition. Among whites, on the other hand, married nonrecipients (76.8%) said they knew where to find out about

Table 19

Percentages of Nonrecipients Who Knew Where to Find Out About Programs According to Education and Race

Programs	Black				White			
	0-4	5-8	9 and over	χ^2 Significance	0-4	5-8	9 and over	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	55.9 (38)	57.1 (48)	74.6 (53)	.0341*	67.6 (23)	67.6 (46)	73.2 (30)	.8110
Aid to the Blind	8.6 (13)	7.2 (10)	12.3 (16)	.3349	7.1 (6)	11.9 (13)	9.8 (6)	.5273
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	15.0 (19)	13.4 (16)	19.7 (24)	.3866	13.8 (9)	17.8 (18)	16.9 (10)	.7907
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	14.0 (22)	24.3 (34)	30.2 (32)	.0054**	8.1 (6)	14.3 (15)	27.6 (16)	.0082**
Division of Family Services	10.4 (14)	17.4 (23)	24.4 (29)	.0125*	14.1 (12)	17.7 (20)	24.6 (15)	.2659
Child Nutrition	14.4 (18)	17.5 (18)	35.6 (21)	.0026**	8.1 (5)	21.4 (18)	20.0 (10)	.0809
Old Age Assistance	13.6 (15)	18.1 (27)	21.8 (27)	.2704	16.7 (8)	12.8 (11)	10.0 (5)	.6161

Note. N's in parentheses. *$p < .05$ **$p < .01$

Food Stamps more often than unmarried (60.0%), divorced/separated (46.2%), and widow-er (56.7%) whites not receiving assistance.

Responses from both races regarding Child Nutrition were influenced significantly by employment status of the nonrecipients. The blacks working full time were considerably more likely than either the unemployed or part-time workers to know where to find out about this program, but among whites, both of the employed groups (full-time and part-time) reported more often than the unemployed nonrecipients that they knew where to get information about Child Nutrition. Black responses revealed one other difference--part-time workers were more likely than the other employment status groups to know where to find out about Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled.

Only one significant difference was found in regard to the variable of family job classification. Among whites, the farm laborers were much more likely than farmers, nonfarmers, or those without family job classifications to know where to get information about Aid to Families With Dependent Children.

Among blacks, the general health conditions of nonrecipients revealed significantly different responses about three programs: Aid to Families With Dependent Children, Child Nutrition, and Old Age Assistance. In all three instances, those in excellent health said they knew where to find out about the programs considerably more often than

those in any other health condition.

Eligibility

The second question regarding potential use of the programs was, "Do you know what would make you eligible for the program?" As Table 20 shows, slightly over one-third (34.4%) of those not receiving Food Stamps said they knew the eligibility requirements of the program, and non-recipients' knowledge about eligibility for all other programs was considerably less. Table 20 also reveals that

Table 20

Percentages of Nonrecipients Who Knew Eligibility Requirements for Programs According to Race

Programs	Total	Black	White	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	34.4 (132)	34.6 (82)	34.0 (50)	.9945
Aid to the Blind	8.2 (56)	8.7 (37)	7.4 (19)	.6405
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	10.5 (63)	12.0 (45)	8.0 (18)	.1506
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	13.2 (88)	15.8 (67)	8.6 (21)	.0109*
Division of Family Services	4.7 (31)	5.2 (21)	3.8 (10)	.5122
Child Nutrition	12.0 (60)	15.5 (47)	6.5 (13)	.0038**
Old Age Assistance	12.8 (74)	14.5 (57)	9.2 (17)	.1033

Note. N's in parentheses. *$p < .05$ **$p < .01$

blacks and whites differed significantly in responses about Aid to Families With Dependent Children and Child Nutrition. In both instances, the black nonrecipients were more likely than the white nonrecipients to be knowledgeable about eligibility.

No significant differences were found in responses to this question according to marital status or family job classification. Sex differences were noted in one instance, with white female nonrecipients (11.9%) significantly more likely than white males (3.7%) to say they knew what would make them eligible for Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled.

Table 21 displays percentages of nonrecipients with knowledge of eligibility according to age groups and race. These data show that both black and white age groups varied significantly in regard to Aid to Families With Dependent Children and Child Nutrition. The younger groups (below 30 and 30-45) in both races were more apt to know eligibility requirements for Aid to Families With Dependent Children than the older groups (46-65 and over 65). Regarding Child Nutrition, the youngest black group (under 30) and the second youngest white group (30-45) were most likely to know what would make them eligible for the program. For white nonrecipients, one additional difference is reflected among age groups, this in response to Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled eligibility. Those in the 30-45 (15.2%) and 46-65 (10.9%) age groups were more

Table 21

Percentages of Nonrecipients Who Knew Eligibility Requirements for Programs According to Age and Race

Programs	Black					White				
	Below 30	30-45	46-65	Over 65	χ^2 Significance	Below 30	30-45	46-65	Over 65	χ^2 Significance
Food Stamps	40.5 (15)	46.8 (22)	30.2 (26)	28.1 (18)	.1338	32.0 (8)	42.1 (16)	39.6 (19)	19.4 (7)	.1563
Aid to the Blind	8.3 (5)	10.4 (10)	11.7 (17)	4.1 (5)	.1536	3.2 (1)	6.5 (3)	7.7 (7)	8.9 (8)	.7657
Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled	13.5 (7)	14.6 (13)	14.9 (18)	6.4 (7)	.1881	...	15.2 (7)	10.9 (7)	4.7 (4)	.0469*
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	25.9 (14)	22.1 (19)	16.4 (24)	6.8 (9)	.0019**	10.3 (3)	19.6 (9)	7.2 (6)	3.4 (3)	.0161*
Division of Family Services	9.3 (5)	7.9 (7)	5.5 (8)	.9 (1)	.0639	3.2 (1)	6.1 (3)	2.2 (2)	4.4 (4)	.6814
Child Nutrition	35.0 (14)	15.6 (5)	17.3 (19)	6.8 (8)	.0003**	9.5 (2)	22.7 (5)	4.3 (3)	3.4 (3)	.0087**
Old Age Assistance	16.9 (11)	13.0 (14)	17.8 (26)	7.1 (5)	.1805	...	15.7 (8)	11.5 (7)	5.1 (2)	.0707

Note. N's in parentheses. *$p < .05$ **$p < .01$

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likely to know what would make them eligible for assistance than those over 65 (4.7%) or under 30 (none).

Educational background significantly influenced black responses about Food Stamps, Division of Family Services, and Child Nutrition. Regarding Food Stamps and Child Nutrition, black nonrecipients in the highest educational group were most likely to say they knew the eligibility requirements. However, in regard to Division of Family Services, both the upper educational groups were significantly more knowledgeable than the lowest educational group.

Black responses about Division of Family Services and Child Nutrition eligibility were also affected by the employemnt status variable. In both instances, those working full time were more likely than the part-time workers or unemployed nonrecipients to say that they knew what would make them eligible for the programs.

The health conditions of black nonrecipients significantly affected knowledge about eligibility requirements for Food Stamps, Aid to Families With Dependent Children, and Old Age Assistance. In all cases, those in excellent health were most knowledgeable about eligibility. Among whites, one difference was revealed according to health conditions--nonrecipients in good health were the ones most likely to know what would make them eligible for Food Stamps.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY

The intent of this chapter is to present a brief overview and interpretation of the major findings on each of the seven selected anti-poverty programs. Each of the following programs will be discussed separately: (1) Food Stamps; (2) Aid to the Blind; (3) Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled; (4) Aid to Families With Dependent Children; (5) Division of Family Services; (6) Child Nutrition; and (7) Old Age Assistance.

Food Stamps

This was the most well-known, most needed, and most used of the seven programs in this part of the study. Known by 90.1% of the sample, the Food Stamps program was needed by 80.7% and currently being used by 47.8% of the respondents. Thus, according to these data, almost one-third of the sample (32.9%) said they needed Food Stamps but were not receiving assistance from the program.

Significant differences were found among those receiving Food Stamps (e.g., more blacks than whites, more black females than black males, more older whites than younger whites, more whites in the lowest educational level than in the higher levels, less married blacks as compared

with other marital status groups, more of the unemployed in both races, more of those with no family job classification in both races, and more of those with poorer health in both races). Of these, the only group significantly more likely to say they needed Food Stamps were the whites in poorer health.

Of those who were recipients of Food Stamps, approximately two-thirds were getting less then $100 per month. Although blacks generally were receiving significantly larger amounts than whites, among blacks those most likely to get the larger amounts were younger, more highly educated, and either married, unmarried, or divorced/separated. Among whites, larger allotments were being received by married respondents than by those in other marital status groups.

While agency workers were the primary sources of information about Food Stamps for all recipients, they were significantly more so for the blacks than for the whites. White recipients were almost as likely to find out about Food Stamps from friends or social workers as from agency workers.

Of the 52.2% who were nonrecipients, almost two-thirds said they knew where to find out about Food Stamps, and approximately one-third knew eligibility requirements for the program. Since the nonrecipients who said they knew where to find out about the program were significantly more likely to be in the same groups as those already receiving larger

amounts (i.e., younger and more highly educated blacks, and married whites), it could be conjectured that this receiving pattern might be perpetuated unless the information disseminating processes are changed.

Aid to the Blind

In contrast with the Food Stamps program, Aid to the Blind was the least known, least needed, and least used of all programs. Only 16.2% of the sample knew about the program, and only 4.4% said they needed it. Only 1.3% (N=9) were receiving assistance, but this was not surprising since the program's services were intended for such a small segment of the population. However, it should be noted that the proportion of respondents who said they needed Aid to the Blind and were not receiving it (3.1% of the sample) was larger than the proportion who were receiving assistance (1.3% of the sample).

Unlike most other programs in this study, the primary sources of knowledge for Aid to the Blind recipients were not agency workers and social workers. Two-thirds of these recipients--six of the nine--named some "other" as their source of information.

As might be expected, the data showed that of the 98.7% nonrecipients in the sample, very few knew where to find out about the program (9.4% of the nonrecipients) or what the eligibility requirements were (8.2% of the nonrecipients). This would indicate support for the idea that most individuals do not process information about public programs

unless or until that knowledge is relevant to their own circumstances.

Even though the numbers of recipients and potential recipients for this program were extremely small, the pattern of information dissemination about the services may be important. Since some "other" was the primary source of information to Aid to the Blind recipients, it seems that dissemination procedures were more haphazard than systematic.

Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled

Almost one-third of the sample (32.5%) knew about Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled, and slightly under one-fifth of the respondents (19.2%) said they needed assistance from this program. Since approximatedly one-tenth of those surveyed (11.7%) reported that they were receiving assistance, 7.5% of the sample needed but were not receiving this help.

In general, those most likely to say they needed this program were also the ones most likely to be receiving assistance (e.g., blacks and whites in the 46-65 age group, blacks and whites with 0-4 school grades completed, unemployed blacks, blacks with no family job classification, blacks and whites in poorer health). Exceptions to this were black males and whites with no job classification.

Slightly under one-third of the recipients (30.9%) were getting less than $100 per month from this program, making it one of the most beneficial programs in terms of

monetary assistance. This program differed from most of the other six in another way: more recipients were in their third years as compared with first and second year recipients.

Almost half the recipients found out about Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled from agency workers, and almost one-fourth learned about it from social workers. Of the 88.3% nonrecipients, only 16.2% said they knew where to get information about the program and only 10.5% knew the eligibility requirements. As has been pointed out, black males and whites with no job classification were two groups more likely to report need for the program but not among those most likely to be receiving assistance. In addition to this, neither of these groups was found to be among those most likely to know where to get information about the program.

Aid to Families With Dependent Children

Blacks were significantly more likely than whites to know about Aid to Families With Dependent Children, to say they needed assistance, and to be receiving help. In addition, among the nonrecipients, blacks were significantly more likely than whites to know the program's eligibility requirements.

This program was fairly well-known by the sample, with 44.1% of the respondents saying they knew about it. Approximately one-fifth of the sample (20.3%) reported a need for assistance, and 15.2% of the respondents said

they were receiving assistance. These data show that 5.1% of the sample needed help from the program but were not getting it.

The groups most likely to need assistance were, for the most part, also the ones most apt to receive help (e.g., black females, blacks in the 30-45 age group, blacks in the upper educational levels, unmarried blacks, divorced or separated whites, and blacks with no family job classification). Three groups, however, were exceptions: whites having completed 0-4 school grades, black farm laborers, and whites with no family job classification.

Approximately one-half of the recipients (52.1%) were receiving less than $100 per month from the program. This program differed from the other six in that the sources of information for recipients were much more equally represented by social workers (35.2%), agency workers (29.5%), and friends (24.8%). Additionally, health conditions of respondents in both races apparently made a significant difference in their primary sources of knowledge about the program (i.e., in general, those in better health found out from social workers, and those in poorer health learned about the program from agency workers).

Of the nonrecipients, 19.6% said they knew where to get information about the program, and 13.2% reported knowledge of the eligibility requirements. As was the case in the Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled program, the groups most likely to say they needed Aid to Families With

Dependent Children (i.e., whites in the lowest educational group, black farm laborers, and whites with no family job classification) were not among those most likely to know where to get information.

Division of Family Services

As reported earlier, Aid to the Blind was the least known, least needed, and least used of all programs. The Division of Family Services was only slightly better known and more used by the respondents. The need for its assistance, however, was somewhat greater.

Approximately one-fifth of the sample (20.3%) knew about the Division of Family Services, and only 3.7% of the sample said they were receiving assistance from it. Since 13.6% of the respondents reported that they needed help from this agency, these data show that 9.9% of the sample said they needed assistance but were not receiving it.

Although blacks were significantly more likely than whites to say they knew about the agency and that they needed its help, they were not more likely to be recipients of assistance. Furthermore, three groups were more likely by comparison to report need (i.e., black females, unmarried blacks, and black farm laborers), but the only group found to be more highly represented among recipients in comparison with others was the highest educational category of whites.

The recipients overwhelmingly reported social workers as their primary sources of information about this agency,

and one-half the recipients were getting monthly amounts of $100 or less. Responses revealed that 17.4% of the non-recipients (96.3% of the sample) knew where to find out about the Division of Family Services. Of the groups most likely to know where to get information about the Division of Family Services (i.e., the two youngest age groups of blacks, the oldest group of whites, the most highly educated blacks, and the unmarried blacks), only one group--the unmarried blacks--was among those most likely to report need.

Child Nutrition

This program was the second most well-known, most needed, and most used of the programs, although Food Stamps was far ahead of all others in this respect. Slightly over half the respondents (51.7%) knew about Child Nutrition, and 39.3% said they needed the program. The difference between the proportions who needed assistance and those receiving it (35.8% of the sample) was very small, only 3.5% of the sample.

Blacks were significantly more represented than whites among those who knew about Child Nutrition, who needed it, and who were receiving assistance. Additionally, among nonrecipients, blacks were more likely than whites to say they knew the eligibility requirements.

Generally, it appeared that the groups reporting the greatest need for this program were also the ones most likely to be receiving assistance (i.e., blacks and whites in the 30-45 age group, blacks having completed nine or more

school grades, both blacks and whites who were married or divorced/separated, blacks and whites with full-time employment, black and white farm laborers, blacks with no family job classification, and whites in good or fair health). Three groups, however, were found to be among those most likely to receive Child Nutrition assistance but not among those most likely to report a need for the program--unmarried blacks, nonfarming blacks, and whites in excellent health.

In addition, some differences were found in comparing the groups most likely to need the program and the 18.4% of the nonrecipients most likely to know where to get information about it. White females, blacks under 30 years of age, part-time employed whites, and blacks in excellent health were among the nonrecipients most likely to know sources of information about Child Nutrition, but they were not among those most apt to need the program.

The school was the predominant source of information for recipients, with 90.7% saying they found out about the program from the school. Since the difference between proportions of respondents needing assistance from the program (39.3%) and actually receiving it (35.8%) was relatively small (only 3.5% of the sample), it might be conjectured that the organized information dissemination procedures through the school were quite effective in reaching potential recipients of Child Nutrition assistance.

Old Age Assistance

This program was better known than most others, with 45.1% of the sample saying they knew about it. The program was needed by one-third of the sample (33.6%), and approximately one-fourth (23.6% of the sample) were receiving help from Old Age Assistance. These responses indicated that 10.0% of the sample needed but were not receiving assistance.

Whites were more highly represented than blacks among those who said they needed assistance and also more highly represented among those who were getting it. Whites also were more likely than blacks to be among the recipients who had been receiving help for the longest periods of time.

There was great similarity between the groups most likely to report need for Old Age Assistance and the groups most likely to be receiving help (i.e., those in both races who were over 65 years of age, who were in the lowest educational group, who were widow-ers, who were unemployed, who were farmers, and who were in poor or very poor health). However, the unmarried whites and the whites in fair health were exceptions. While unmarried whites were among those most likely to say they needed Old Age Assistance, they were not among most likely to be recipients. On the other hand, whites in fair health were more highly represented, by comparison with other health groups, among those receiving assistance but were not among the groups most likely to report need for assistance.

Approximately one-third of the recipients (37.9%) were receiving less than $100 per month from this program. Those receiving larger amounts tended to be the oldest blacks and whites, married blacks, unemployed or part-time employed blacks, and whites with no family job classification.

This program was similar to Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled in that more recipients were in their third years as compared with first and second year recipients. There were significant differences, however, among the groups in terms of duration of assistance. Those most likely to have received Old Age Assistance longest were whites, blacks under 30 or over 65 years of age, and blacks who reported farming or nonfarming (as opposed to farm labor or no classification) as their family job classification.

Recipients most often reported agency workers (44.5%) as their primary sources of information about the program, with social workers (27.0%) as the second best source. Of the 76.4% nonrecipients, 16.4% said they knew where to find out information and 12.8% said they knew the eligibility requirements. Since blacks in excellent health were the only group among nonrecipients significantly more likely to know sources of information and eligibility requirements, it seems highly unlikely that this knowledge is possessed by the most needy potential recipients of Old Age Assistance.

Conclusion

While the data showed that information about these programs was reaching many of these low-income people, the

responses also revealed gaps between stated needs and receipt of assistance. In addition, the nonrecipients were generally uninformed about where to find out about programs or the eligibility requirements of the various programs.

In order to make a more thorough analysis of the information consumption patterns about these programs, however, it would be important to know whether the respondents who said they needed assistance were the same ones receiving it. It would also be important to know which of the nonrecipients who said they needed assistance were also the ones who knew where to find out about programs and who kenw eligibility requirements.

Except for the Child Nutrition program, which used the local educational institution (school) as the primary disseminator of information, programs apparently did not have systematic and comprehensive lines of communication with potential recipients. This finding could have major implications for program sponsors seeking to establish more effective communication networks. Serious attention should be given to the possible communication roles of other local institutions which are both familiar and important in the lives of low-income rural people.

APPENDIX A

Seven Selected Public Assistance Programs

FOOD STAMPS

Sponsoring Agency:	Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, Division of Family Services
Purpose of Program:	To provide food stamps to low income families.
Approximate Age of Program:	Established in 1972 as Food Stamps program; prior to that time, it was the Commodity Foods program.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. If no one in family gets welfare (or if some persons in family get welfare and some do not), an individual can receive food stamps if the family's net monthly income does not exceed food stamp income standard and if family's total savings and cash are not over $600 for one person and $1,200 for two or more persons.

2. If family gets welfare, it is also eligible for food stamps.

AID TO THE BLIND*

Sponsoring Agency:	Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, Division of Family Services
Purpose of Program:	To provide money payments to the blind in need.
Approximate Age of Program:	Established in the 1940s.

Eligibilty Criteria:

1. Must be legally blind as shown by eye examination.

2. Must have limited income, less than agency's standard of need.

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*In January, 1974, this program became part of the new federal program, Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI provides monthly benefits to people in financial need who are 62 years of age or older, or who are blind or disabled.

3. Must be U.S. citizen or have lived in the U.S. for 20 years.

4. Must be living in Florida.

5. Must not have given away or sold property for less than its value in the last two years in order to get public assistance.

6. Must not have assets over $600 for one person or over $1,200 for two or more persons.

AID TO THE TOTALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED*

Sponsoring Agency:	Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, Division of Family Services
Purpose of Program:	To provide money payments to persons who are totally and permanently disabled.
Approximate Age of Program:	Established in the 1940s.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Must be 18 years of age or older.

2. Must have injury or disease which is permanently and totally disabling as determined by medical information.

3. Must be U.S. citizen or have lived in U.S. for 20 years.

4. Must have limited income, less than standard of need.

5. Must not have given away or sold property for less than its value in the last two years in order to get public assistance.

6. Must not have assets over $600 for one person or over $1,200 for two or more persons.

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*In January, 1974, this program became part of the new federal program, Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI provides monthly benefits to people in fiancial need who are 62 years of age or older, or who are blind or disabled.

AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Sponsoring Agency: Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, Division of Family Services

Purpose of Program: To provide money payments to families with dependent children in need, payment based on 68% of need according to standard.

Approximate Age of Program: Established in the 1930s, part of Social Security Act.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Child must be without support or care of one or both partents.
2. Child must be under 18 years of age.
3. Child must be living with parents or other relatives.
4. Must have limited income, less than enough to meet needs based on Division standards.
5. Must not have assets over $250 for one child or $1,200 for a group of children.

DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES

Sponsoring Agency: Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services

Purpose of Agency: To sponsor a variety of programs intended to provide assistance to persons in need.

Approximate Age of Agency: Established in 1937 (now called Social and Economic Services).

Eligibility Criteria:

Vary according to the purposes of the specific programs sponsored by this agency.

CHILD NUTRITION

Sponsoring Agency: Florida Department of Education

Purpose of Program: To provide well-balanced meals free or at a reduced price for school-aged children.

Approximate Age of Program: Established in 1966 (Child Nutrition Act)

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Family income must be below standard set by county school program.

OLD AGE ASSISTANCE*

Sponsoring Agency: Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, Division of Family Services

Purpose of Program: To provide money payments to the aged in need.

Approximate Age of Program: Established in the 1940s.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Must be 65 years of age or older.
2. Must have limited income, less than the Division's standard of need.
3. Must be citizen of U.S. or have lived in the U.S. for 20 years.
4. Must be living in Florida.
5. Must not have given away or sold property for less than its value in the last two years in order to get public assistance.
6. Must not have assets over $600 for one person or over $1,200 for two or more persons.

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*In January, 1974, this program became part of the new federal program, Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI provides monthly benefits to people in financial need who are 62 years of age or older, or who are blind or disabled.